SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 173
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Joseph "Giovanni" Cerrito.

WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the members of the General Assembly learned of the death of John Joseph "Giovanni" Cerrito, a highly respected entrepreneur and fine Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, for almost half a century, John Cerrito owned the Memphis restaurant "where Italy comes to your table"; and

WHEREAS, local observers state that his cuisine was the very best; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cerrito, the son of an immigrant who traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, from Sicily, opened the old Cerrito's Restaurant in downtown Memphis at Second and Washington over 50 years ago; and

WHEREAS, he moved the restaurant to the Crosstown area of Memphis about 35 years ago and renamed it Giovanni's; and

WHEREAS, he continued to own and operate this exquisite restaurant until his retirement in 1988; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his skills as a restaurateur, Mr. Cerrito's hobbies centered around sports and included shooting pool; at age 12 he was Southern pool champion; and

WHEREAS, John was a communicant of St. Mary's Catholic Church on Market; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Josephine Luraschi Cerrito, a son, Rudy David Cerrito, two daughters, Toni and Gloria, three grandchildren, John Joseph, Larry Eugene Dacus and Dina Marie Cerrito, a sister, Zina Margarita, and a brother, Anthony Frank; and

WHEREAS, although John Cerrito has relinquished this life for a far better existence, the legacy of his culinary skill and good taste will live forever; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we pause to mourn the passing of John Joseph "Giovanni" Cerrito while also celebrating the life of this great man as one of the most distinguished Tennesseans of the 20th Century.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.